

LIBRARY



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO THE

Hexham Rural District Council

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1946,

BY

DR. C. McCULLOCH.





ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
TO THE  
Hexham Rural District Council  
FOR THE  
Year ending 31st December, 1946,  
BY  
DR. C. McCULLOCH.



---

HEXHAM

R. ROBSON & SONS, Printers, Priestpople.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29426340>

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
PROSPECT HOUSE,  
HEXHAM.

*To Chairman and Members of the Hexham Rural District Council :—*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

This report still does not take the usual form but is prepared on the lines of that for 1945.

The Birth Rate shows an increase over that of last year, being 18.1 against 13.2 for 1945.

The Infectious Diseases as a whole show an increase which is due to the increased number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough.

**Water.** The supply position during the year was, in general, satisfactory in quality and quantity, the yield from the springs in the dry period being higher than normal.

The results for bacteriological examination of samples taken from the Council's supplies were satisfactory in all cases.

Endeavours to augment the Acomb Village supply by means of a borehole proved unsuccessful. Other proposals are being investigated.

The villages of Ovington and Horsley previously supplied by springs and a borehole respectively, are now supplied by Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

**Removal of House Refuse.** This service has been extended to a further four villages during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,  
C. McCULLOCH,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA	...	...	...	...	...	196,030 acres.
ESTIMATED POPULATION, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	19,910

### Vital Statistics.

* BIRTHS—	TOTAL	M.	F.	BIRTH RATE
Legitimate...	341 ...	181 ...	160 ...	
Illegitimate	21 ...	16 ...	5 ...	18.1

\* *Corrected by Registrar's General Figures.*

STILL BIRTHS.—The following figures are given by the Registrar General and are not included in the above :—

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Legitimate...	2 ...	2 ...	—
Illegitimate	— ...	— ...	—

Deaths from puerperal causes :— Rate per 1,000

	Total Deaths	(Live & Still) Births.
No. 29. Puer. and post-abortion. Sepsis...	Nil.	... Nil
No. 20. Other maternal causes	...	Nil ... Nil
TOTAL	...	Nil ... Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	46.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births...				43.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				95.2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	39
„ Measles (all ages)...	...	...	...	Nil
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1

BIRTHS.—The actual number of births registered in the Rural District of Hexham is 1,259 compared with 1,113 in 1945 and 1,516 in 1944. This number is made up of 613 males and 646 females.

The following Table gives the uncorrected Births as they are distributed :—

Sub-District	Year	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total		Both
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Allendale ...	1945	13	9	1	—	14	9	23
	1946	17	13	1	—	18	13	31
Bywell ...	1945	16	14	—	1	16	15	31
	1946	14	17	2	1	16	18	34
Chollerton...	1945	12	11	—	—	12	11	23
	1946	18	12	1	2	19	14	33
Hexham ...	1945	513	455	37	31	550	456	1036
	1946	542	588	18	13	560	601	1161
Total for District	1945	554	489	38	32	592	521	1113
	1946	594	630	22	16	613	646	1259

DEATHS.—During the year there have been 261 deaths of persons in and belonging to the Rural District. This is an increase on last year when there were 255. In the preceding year there were 264.

These figures give a corrected Death Rate of 13.1 per thousand. The following table classifies these deaths, according to their age groups in each sub-district, also into Adult, Infant and Uncertified Deaths :—

District	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	Total
Age Group :					
0—1 ...	4	1	4	8	17
1—2 ...	—	—	—	—	—
2—5 ...	—	1	1	1	3
5—15 ...	—	—	—	2	2
15—25 ...	2	1	—	—	3
25—45 ...	4	3	3	3	13
45—65 ...	13	13	11	9	46
Over 65 ...	41	63	31	42	177
Totals all ages	64	82	50	65	261
Uncertified { M.	—	6	1	3	10
{ F.	1	1	1	1	4
Infant { M.	4	1	2	4	11
{ F.	—	—	2	4	6
Adult { M.	37	39	20	24	120
{ F.	23	42	26	33	124
					261



The chief causes of Death are set out in the following table :—

Causes of Death.	Allendale	Bywell	Chollerton	Hexham	TOTAL
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	2	—	2
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—
Tub. of Resp. System...	2	3	—	2	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	1	—	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases ...	—	—	1	—	1
Influenza ...	2	—	1	1	4
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph	—	—	—	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph. ...	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph (M)	—	—	—	—	—
uterus (F) ...	—	1	—	2	3
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	3	2	1	2	8
Cancer of breast ...	—	5	1	—	6
Cancer of all other sites ...	4	6	6	6	22
Diabetes ...	1	1	—	2	4
Intra-cran. Vasc. lesions ...	12	15	9	6	42
Heart Disease ...	20	26	9	17	72
Other dis. of circ. system ...	2	2	2	3	9
Bronchitis ...	3	3	3	3	12
Pneumonia ...	2	—	1	3	6
Other resp. diseases ...	—	—	1	1	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	—	—	—	1	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	—	—	1	—	1
Appendicitis ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other digestive diseases ...	1	1	1	1	4
Nephritis ...	3	2	1	1	7
Puer and post-abort. sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other maternal causes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth ...	—	—	2	4	6
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ...	3	1	—	3	7
Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—
Road Traffic accidents ...	1	—	—	1	2
Other violent causes ...	1	2	1	—	4
All Other causes ...	4	11	7	5	27
TOTAL ...	64	82	50	65	261

INFANT MORTALITY.—There were 17 deaths of infants under one year of age as compared with 8 in 1945 and 14 in 1944. The Infant Mortality Rate is 46.9 per thousand births registered, compared with 31.1 for 1945 and 44.0 for 1944.

# BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1946.

	Rate per 1,000 total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population								Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid & Paratyphoid fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under one year
England and Wales ...	19.1	0.53	11.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.15	4.4	43
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	22.2	0.67	12.7	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.13	6.1	46
148 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	21.3	0.59	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.14	2.8	37
London Adm. County	21.5	0.54	12.7	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.12	4.2	41
Hexham R.D. ...	18.1	0.10	13.1	—	—	—	—	0.10	—	0.20	2.7	46

### Infectious Diseases, 1941-1946 (inclusive).

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	11	13	23	29	36	21
Diphtheria ...	13	7	4	3	8	6
Enteric ...	7	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	17	13	18	17	8	9
Erysipelas...	7	3	6	5	5	2
Pneumonias ...	16	11	20	5	8	15
Whooping Cough...	59	1	24	28	18	45
Measles ...	91	65	114	32	23	81

### Diphtheria Immunisation, 1946.

	Total number of Children Immunised during 1946	Under 5.	5—14
Diphtheria Immunisation	191	191	Nil
Percentage immunised at 31st December, 1946	—	96.5%	67.5%

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum during the year under review.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality during 1946 :—

Age periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Hexham Rural District			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulm.		Pulmonary		Non Pulm.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5—15 ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ...	1	2	1	—	1	—	—	—
25—35 ...	2	2	—	1	1	2	—	—
35—45 ...	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—
45—55 ...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—65 ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
TOTALS ...	3	9	1	2	4	3	2	—



**TABLE No. 2,**

Causes of Death, shewing sex distribution, during Year ending  
31st December, 1946.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	M.	F
Typhoid and Parat. Fevers ... ..	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—
Tuberculosis of Resp. System ... ..	4	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	2	—
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	1	—
Influenza ... ..	1	3
Measles ... ..	—	—
Ac. Polio-myel and polio-enceph ... ..	—	—
Ac. inf. enceph ... ..	—	—
Cancer of Buc. cav. and oesoph (M) uterus (F) ...	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ... ..	4	4
Cancer of breast ... ..	—	6
Cancer of all other sites ... ..	12	10
Diabetes ... ..	1	3
Intra-cran. vasc. lesions ... ..	16	26
Heart Disease ... ..	40	32
Other diseases of circ. system ... ..	7	2
Bronchitis ... ..	6	6
Pneumonia ... ..	3	3
Other resp. diseases ... ..	—	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ... ..	—	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ... ..	—	1
Appendicitis ... ..	—	—
Other digestive diseases ... ..	3	1
Nephritis ... ..	5	2
Puer. and post-abort. sepsis ... ..	—	—
Other maternal causes ... ..	—	—
Premature Birth ... ..	5	1
Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ... ..	4	3
Suicide ... ..	—	—
Road traffic accidents ... ..	2	—
Other violent causes ... ..	3	1
All other causes ... ..	11	16
	132	129
<b>TOTAL</b> ... ..	<b>261</b>	

**Table No. 3.****Infant Mortality during Year ending December 31st, 1946.**

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Smallpox - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pul. Tuberculosis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases- - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms) - - -	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
Diarrhoea - - -	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Congenital Malformations - - -	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth - - -	4	1	1	...	6	...	...	...	...	6
Marasmus - - -	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Atelectasis - - -	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Injury at Birth - - -	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Other causes- - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All causes { Certified.	11	1	1	...	13	2	...	2	...	17
{ Uncertified.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTALS -	11	1	1	...	13	2	...	2	...	17



## SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS, 1946.

	Houses affected.
Roofs repaired ... ..	89
Cooking ranges and fireplaces renewed ... ..	123
Bathrooms provided ... ..	58
Additional W.C's. provided ... ..	11
Floors repaired ... ..	62
New windows provided ... ..	39
Privies converted to W.C's. ... ..	51
Water laid into house ... ..	40
New private water supplies ... ..	126
Privies abolished ... ..	29
Hot water systems installed ... ..	60
New sinks provided ... ..	51
Ceilings renewed ... ..	75
Gutters, spouts and wastes renewed or repaired ... ..	37
Sculleries provided ... ..	22
Privies repaired ... ..	1
Foodstores provided ... ..	8
Baths installed ... ..	35
Service pipes renewed ... ..	11
Washing accommodation provided ... ..	7
Lavatory basins provided ... ..	19
Walls replastered ... ..	43
Chimneys repaired ... ..	22
New drainage systems ... ..	37
Drains reconstructed ... ..	6
Sewage disposal plant provided ... ..	17
Sanitary Bins provided ... ..	157

## FOOD INSPECTION, 1946.

UNSOOUND FOOD.	Surrendered	Seized	Legal Pro- ceedings
Canned Goods ... Tins	172	—	—
Bacon ... .. lbs.	14	—	—
Butter ... .. lbs.	2	—	—
Other Foods :— Flour principally st.s	101	—	—

## MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

## Section 6 (1) and (4).

Number of Cowkeepers (registered) in district ... ..	679
Approximate number of cows kept ... ..	10,000



## D.—HOUSING

## HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR 1946.

	With State Assistance	Unaided	TOTAL
(a) By Local Authority ... ..	—	—	—
(b) By other Bodies or Persons ... ..	—	3	3
<b>1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the Year :</b>			
(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)			377
(2) Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation ... ..			8
(3) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...			294
<b>2.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices :</b>			
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or its officers ... ..			58
<b>3.—Action under Statutory Powers :</b>			
(A) <i>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :</i>			
(1) No of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring repairs ...			Nil
(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—			
(a) By owners ... ..	—		Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —			Nil
(B) <i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts :</i>			
(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which " notices " were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..			Nil
(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—			
(a) By owners ... ..	—		Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...			Nil
(C) <i>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :</i>			
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..			Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..			Nil
(D) <i>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:</i>			
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..			Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..			Nil
<b>4.—Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above</b>			
			Nil

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

53 inspections have been made and 17 defects remedied.  
No statutory notices were served.



